

The Washington Times

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (INCLUDING SUNDAYS)
BY THE WASHINGTON TIMES COMPANY,
THE MUNSEY BUILDING, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

Frank A. Munsey, Pres. R. H. Thirrington, Sec.
Fred A. Walker, Treasurer and General Manager.

ONE YEAR (INC. SUNDAY) \$3.50 10 CENTS. 12 MO. 1913.
Entered at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., as second class
mail matter.

Washington, D. C., Sunday, February 23, 1913.

ALL THE WORLD A NEIGHBORHOOD.

Twice the past week has come news of steps taken to girdle the world with speech and in this way make Manila or Melbourne or Mandalay as neighborly to Washington as Baltimore is today. Only, instead of the telephone, the cable and wireless are to be relied upon to bring about this universal intimacy.

First came the announcement that a way had been found to adapt the Morse telegraph code to submarine communication so as to make it possible to send word by cable direct, say, from Boston to St. Petersburg or Honolulu, or, if desirable, clear around the world. Now, only a few days later, comes news that the American and Russian governments are arranging to establish a wireless service across Bering sea, which would form a new connection between the old world and the new and which would complete the wireless girdle 'round the globe.

Ten years ago either one of these achievements would have been included among the list of improbabilities, to say the least. But now both are accepted as part of the day's work. Improvements, both small and epoch-making, develop so fast nowadays that the world hardly has time to discuss them. It simply adapts them and wonders what will develop next.

What next? Well, transcontinental telephone service. Why not?

THE ILLEGAL "BLUE TAG."

Arbitrary use of authority by a Cabinet officer deserves not only open censure, but forcible repression. His position should not be allowed to shield him. This is true of the Postmaster General, whose use of his position is denounced by the Senate Committee on Postoffices.

The so-called "blue tag" system of sending some periodicals by freight and others by fast mail trains is the means by which he assumes a power over the press that is properly declared "unthinkable" except in an absolute monarchy. The committee recommends abolishing the system after the first of next September, as without warrant in law.

Why should there be delay until September, August, or even May? Action without warrant of law that trespasses on or oppresses the freedom of any citizen or group of citizens to their injury should not wait the deliberate rebuke of Congress for adjustment. The Administration that permits it to continue after exposure spurs responsibility.

THE HERDIC TRANSFER ISSUE.

The Washington and Capital Street Car Companies have announced that they will not obey the law requiring them to exchange transfers with the Metropolitan Coach Company, the "herdic line." They propose to have the law tested in the courts, and as there is no way to make up a case except by violating the statute, they will take this course.

While it is regrettable that the street railway companies should thus refuse to recognize the obligation they owe to the public, in the matter of providing it with facilities, yet the forcing of a determination of this entire transfer question is highly desirable. For many years, whenever effort was made to impose a universal transfer requirement, the street car corporations and their supporters in Congress have retorted that such legislation would be unconstitutional, that it would be taking private property without due compensation. That constitutional question is not taken very gravely by people on the other side; but it has been a good enough Morgan to provide pretext for many people to hide behind, in their support of the traction companies' position. The street railways' own lack of confidence in their contention is suggested by the fact that they have always fought hard against all universal transfer proposals. They have very plainly desired not to put their case to the real test of the courts.

The herdic case should bring a determination of this whole constitutional issue. If the companies are sustained, and the Supreme Court shall hold that exchange of transfers cannot be enforced by law, then it will follow that there is no chance of enforcing a like policy as against the street railway companies. With that decision finally promulgated, there would be renewal of demand for a consolidation of the street car properties on a basis that would be promotive of the public interest, and that would give universal transfers.

Far from feeling aggrieved with the railway companies for their refusal to abide by the new law, it seems that they are taking the course which will serve the public's real interest, by disposing of this whole question.

If we can't get universal transfers by law, we must have consolidation. If the law is competent to give universal transfers, we should have the law as soon as possible. Let the transfer case be rushed along. The District government might well intervene in it to make certain that the public concern is kept in mind in presentation.

THE CRETAN PROBLEM SETTLED.

The most momentous actual result of the Balkan war thus far is the taking of Crete by Greece, by permission of the powers, for it is to be noted that Turkey has behaved as stubbornly over the Cretan question as over the Macedonian, and that each ceding power gaining the upper hand in the Ottoman Empire has sought to retain control of Crete, as if the island were the very keystone of Turkish pride and sovereignty.

Now quietly, without bloodshed, this time-hon-

ored privilege is taken away from the Turks and Crete becomes again what it was when history was first being written, a part of Grecian territory. The Cretans of old were seafaring Greeks. Today the great majority of the 350,000 inhabitants of the island—a population, it will be seen, about half as large as Boston's—are Greek in blood and sympathy. The island was naturally one of the theaters of war in ancient times. Greeks, Romans, Saracens, Venetians, Turks, Crusaders—all took a hand at ruling it up to the time, now more than three-quarters of a century ago, when the powers made it an object of their widespread paternalism and turned it temporarily over to the Egyptian government.

It was in Crete that Minos, the "great lawgiver, judge and king," held sway, but circumstances kept the people turbulent, though their leaning was naturally toward Greece. This is what made their subjection to the Sublime Porte "more nominal than real." They shared in the Greek uprising of 1821, and this was the beginning of the chapter now brought to an end; they shared again in the troubles that overcame Greece as the result of her war with Turkey sixteen years ago, and they might have gained liberation from the Turkish yoke then but for the eagerness of the powers to lull the Near Eastern question to sleep.

A TRUE PLAN OF NAVAL ECONOMY.

The House will probably decide on Monday whether it favors authorization of two battleships, or only one, in this year's naval appropriation bill. The debate will travel over the old, familiar ground that has been covered year after year in this discussion of the very fundamental of our whole national defense policy.

This country does not now, and never did, attempt to maintain an army comparable to those of Europe. Our isolation is a guarantee of a certain security. But the very reason which makes it unnecessary to provide a great army, does dictate that we should maintain a first-class navy. Our isolation would be no assurance of safety if we were not prepared to oppose any naval force that might reasonably be expected to be launched against our shores. The canal, our large responsibilities in all three Americas, and our interests in the east, all dictate a vigorous naval program.

Against this is placed the futile argument of economy. It is an argument that doesn't argue. The conditions which we need a navy to meet are not of our own making. They are imposed on us from the outside. It is senseless to talk about the "wild race of naval expansion," and to assume that for us to drop out of that race will discourage our competitors. Rather, it would be to yield the victory to them; to concede that the one nation best able to maintain a navy was willing to prejudice its place among the powers in order to save a few millions of dollars a year.

If we want economy in naval programs; if we want to force the rest of the naval powers to realize the fatuousness and folly of carrying their huge armaments, the way to do it is not to quit building American battleships. It is exactly the opposite: to go straight to the head of the naval construction competition, and let the world know that we, who are better able than any other power, propose to let none lead us in this test of strength and staying quality.

How long would Britain and Germany continue their present expansion programs if the United States would adopt the advice of Commander Hobson and authorize six battleships a year for a series of years?

No other naval power has the wealth and resources to stand a real competition with us in this direction. Britain and Germany, already well-nigh borne down by the weight of their naval burdens, would toss them over in utter desperation if the United States should seriously enter the race with them.

The navies of the world are economically useless, and worse, of course. There ought to be enough naval strength to serve as an international police force in behalf of civilization; no more. But that is an ideal not to be realized soon. It is farther away now than ever before, and it will recede yet farther if the United States does not have the vigor and purpose to step in and smother all competitors by outbidding them for leadership.

The truest economy, the surest way to end the naval expansion race, would be to overstep every other nation's naval program, and to maintain the primacy at whatever cost. We can do it; none other can match us in that game.

The naval waste would end right suddenly if this Government would authorize ten battleships a year for five years. They would never need to be built. The other naval powers would be at our feet before the first year's group of keels were laid. The second year's installment would never need to be laid. The whole program of naval magalomania would collapse. That would be a splendid service for this country to perform for civilization. It is a service that this country, and this alone, is able to perform. It would be the true economy, the true road to disarmament or limitation of armaments.

PHILOSOPHY AND CHEWING TOBACCO.

President-elect Wilson, while entering an aggrieved denial of the statement in tobacco advertisements that he chews the weed, proceeds to account for the slander. According to the New York Sun, he thinks it grew out of his habit of "philosophical reflection," and he proceeds to say that, whatever the demerits of the solacing quid, it at least gives a man time to think between sentences.

Revenues of the Tobacco trust will be swelled, no doubt, by persons anxious to foment a belief that they actually think between sentences, as well as have time to do so. There is a shade of difference in meaning here which the Princeton philosopher-statesman does not seem to bring out.

The average chewer nurses a delusion that he conceals his vice, unless he is so conspicuous about it that it escape from detection is well-nigh impossible. But now that he can claim a look-in with Socrates and Aristotle, he can aim at a quarter across the room, open and unafraid.

DISTRICT'S BUDGET

MAY PERISH IN JAM

General Deficiency and Naval Bills Must Be Passed Ahead of "Ridden" Measure.

That the District appropriation bill, with the Jones-Works excise measure as a Senate rider, may be caught in the jam in the closing hours of the session and fail of passage at this session, is a possibility seriously discussed today by members of the House.

One House leader, who is opposed to the liquor legislation amendment to the bill and who does not desire to see a record vote on the subject, said significantly:

"What if the District bill failed altogether at this session?"

Then he smiled knowingly and asserted that there had been no change in the tangled parliamentary situation affecting the District budget.

Two Ahead of It.

It is practically certain the District bill will not be brought before the House by the Appropriations Committee until the naval bill, and probably the general deficiency bill, is out of the way. Granting this, it will be Wednesday or Thursday of this week before the Appropriations Committee discharges the Senate amendments and moves to send the bill to conference. Congress adjourns next Tuesday. Here are a few of the things which must be attended to in the House within the next eight days:

The naval bill, against which there is now filibuster, and the general deficiency bill, must pass.

The House is yet to act on conference reports on the following annual appropriation bills: Indian, postoffice, army, rivers and harbors, agricultural, diplomatic and consular, military, academy, pensions, public buildings, sundry civil—a total of ten, excepting the District of Columbia bill.

Fights Inevitable.

Prolonged fights are inevitable on the Indian, rivers and harbors and public buildings bill—which the Senate has "loaded" with items calling for millions in excess of the amounts authorized by the House. Of the fifteen appropriation bills the Senate has actually passed five, and there remain eight days to get these bills through both houses and into the hands of the President.

Under the circumstances, it would not be surprising to see a tie-up on the District bill and numerous members who do not desire to be pointed out as having been secretly maneuvering for such a mix-up. They say the District bill may be passed in the extra session, which convenes several months in advance of the close of the fiscal year.

Congressman Burleson, in charge of the District budget in the House, wants the bill to pass, although he is opposed to the Jones-Works liquor bill. He is not, however, that far from the truth, that if the bill is brought out of the Appropriations Committee, it will be in the hands of the Senate, and there is a prospect for a tie-up in conference in the excise amendment.

Instantly the House will consider the bill to pass, although he is opposed to the Jones-Works liquor bill. He is not, however, that far from the truth, that if the bill is brought out of the Appropriations Committee, it will be in the hands of the Senate, and there is a prospect for a tie-up in conference in the excise amendment.

Those who were honored were former Congressman Robert C. Wickliffe of Louisiana, Carol C. Anderson of Ohio, Sylvester Clark of California, and George S. Legrie of South Carolina, and former Senators Weldon B. Heyburn of Idaho, Robert S. Taylor of Arkansas, and Jeff Davis of Arkansas.

The memory of Congressman Wickliffe was paid a striking tribute by Congressman Victor Murdock of Kansas who traced the Louisiana family from its early days in Kentucky.

"He seemed to have belonged to the Kentucky of old days," said Mr. Murdock. "He bore many traces of a gentility and gentleness of character which seemed to take us far back in the history of American families. He had the radiance of the kind, new, of the future with magnificent idealism, and was a lovable, kindly soul. When he met his friends, he had a warm, hearty, and a happy glow about him that did not miss the radiance of this youth."

Among those who spoke in honor of the late Senator Robert L. Taylor of Tennessee were Speaker Champ Clark and Congressman Longworth of Ohio and Littleton of New York. The memorial services were the most extensive of the session.

"That the American embassy has been attacked there is no question about what will happen inside of a few hours," said one of the army's leaders. "The situation is very serious. The report is correct. If President Taft were in the city, pending his arrival and his consultation with his officers, no orders would be issued, but every step toward necessary action would be taken. It is an open secret that the orders have been waiting only to be signed. The situation is very serious. The report is correct. If President Taft were in the city, pending his arrival and his consultation with his officers, no orders would be issued, but every step toward necessary action would be taken. It is an open secret that the orders have been waiting only to be signed. The situation is very serious. The report is correct. If President Taft were in the city, pending his arrival and his consultation with his officers, no orders would be issued, but every step toward necessary action would be taken. 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